

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Amended) ~~The opening method of continuous filaments as set forth in claim 2, wherein~~ An opening method for continuous filaments, comprising the steps of:
transporting crimped tow by means of a plurality of rolls; and
applying a resistance on at least one side of said tow by slidably contacting a plurality of sliding bodies onto said tow at a position between said rolls, whereby continuous filaments stacked in a thickness direction of said tow are caused to shift in a transporting direction of said tow to open said tow and to spread said continuous filaments in a latitudinal direction of said tow, wherein
each side of said tow is slidably contacted by at least one of said sliding bodies, and each sliding body is adjustable of about a tilt angle relative to a line perpendicular to a transporting path of said TOW tow and a penetration amount into the transporting path of said TOW tow.
4. (Currently amended) ~~The opening method of for continuous filaments as set forth in claim 3, which further comprises a~~ comprising the step of:
detecting a width of spread continuous filaments after slidably contacting with said sliding bodies, and a step of
automatically adjusting said tilt angle and said penetration amount of said sliding bodies based on the basis of the a detected value.
5. (Currently amended) ~~The opening method of for continuous filaments as set forth in claim 1 3, wherein peripheral speeds of rolls located at an~~

upstream side and a downstream side of said sliding body are identical
~~the same.~~

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(Currently amended) The opening method ~~of~~ for continuous filaments as set forth in claim 1 3, wherein, among rolls located at an upstream side and a downstream side of said sliding body, ~~the~~ a peripheral speed of the roll located at the downstream side is set higher than that of the roll located at the upstream side for applying tension force on said ~~TOW~~ tow between the rolls.

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(Currently amended) An opening apparatus ~~of~~ for continuous filaments, comprising:

a transporting roll group for transporting crimped ~~TOW~~ tow of continuous filaments; ~~and~~

~~at least one sliding body~~ a plurality of sliding bodies arranged between rolls of said transporting roll group ~~for slidingly contacting with said TOW to be transported so that each side of said tow is slidingly contacted by at least one of said sliding bodies;~~

detecting means for detecting a width of spread continuous filaments after slidingly contacting with said sliding bodies;

adjusting means for adjusting a tilt angle of each sliding body relative to a line perpendicular to a transporting path of said tow and a penetration amount of each sliding body into the transporting path of said tow; and

control means for controlling said adjusting means for varying said tilt angle and said penetration amount of each sliding body based on a value detected by said detecting means.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

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10. (Currently amended) The opening apparatus of for continuous filaments as set forth in claim ~~7~~ wherein said rolls located at an upstream side and a downstream side of said sliding body are driven to rotate at ~~the same~~ an identical peripheral speed.

11. (Currently amended) The opening apparatus for continuous filaments as set forth in claim ~~7~~ wherein, among rolls located at an upstream side and a downstream side of said sliding body and driven to rotate, ~~the~~ a peripheral speed of the roll located at the downstream side is set higher than that of the roll located at the upstream side.

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